

Presenting the medal to Ashe's widow, Jeanne, the President noted that Ashe "battled his way to the top rung of international tennis, and he did it with an inner strength and outward dignity that marked his game every bit as much as that dazzling crosscourt backhand."

Appointment of Cochairs of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

June 22, 1993

The President has appointed Olympic gold medalist Florence Griffith Joyner and former NBA star and Congressman Tom McMillen to be the Cochairs of the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

"It is very gratifying that two such distinguished individuals as Florence Griffith Joyner and Tom McMillen have agreed to join my team as Cochairs of the President's Council on Physical Fitness," said the President. "They are heroes to millions of Americans and deservedly so. I look forward to the advice that they will provide Secretary Shalala and myself on how we can enhance opportunities for all of our people to participate in physical fitness and sports activities."

NOTE: Biographies of the appointees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

June 23, 1993

Economic Proposal

Q. Mr. President, is there any way the Republicans can put a plan together that meets your criteria without taxes?

The President. Well, I don't see how. You know, we've already cut \$250 billion in spending. We've cut Medicare, Medicaid, veterans, farmers, defense, foreign aid, every part of the Federal Government. The Republican leader said a couple of days ago he was willing to raise taxes on the wealthy, but apparently the people in his caucus who want

to protect high income people and the tax cuts they got in the eighties, while the middle class got a tax increase, are going to win once again. So what he'll have to do is come up with some version of the same plan they have in the House. The Republican plan in the House, I will remind you, lost more Republican votes than the Democratic plan lost Democratic votes. And the reason is it was unfair to the middle class, the working people, the elderly, and to others because it protected upper income people. And I think you're going to see the same thing. We'll see what they have to say, but I can't imagine what else they can do.

We've got a 5-year freeze on domestic discretionary spending. We're cutting defense all we should, in my opinion, and then some. The only thing that's going up in this budget is health care next year. The only thing that's going up is health care. So it's going to be very interesting to see when they have to face the music what they'll say. But we're all eagerly waiting.

Q. When do you think you can get this reconciliation through a conference committee, assuming the Senate passes it?

The President. Well, one step at a time. We have to get it through the Senate first. We have to get the Senate Finance Committee bill on the floor, watch the amendments come forward, see what happens, and try to pass a bill in the Senate to go on to Congress. And then once we do that, we'll talk about the conference committee.

Q. Leon Panetta said yesterday that one of the goals was going to be to restore veterans. How are you going to do that, go more toward the House plan of raising taxes or the Senate plan, which is more cutting entitlements?

The President. We're going to do a good job of that. Just watch.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.